<u>REMARKS</u>

The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter the foregoing amendment prior to examination of the above-identified <u>patent</u> application.

The amendments to the claims made in this amendment have not been made to overcome the prior art, and thus should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted, Kazuhiro ONO et al.

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